

Cambridge Philosophical Society\*, and subsequently in this Magazine, Mr. Alfred Newton recorded the discovery of the remains of two individuals of *Emys lutaria* at Wretham in Norfolk (Annals, Sept. 1862, p. 224), in a peat-bog, from which it may be concluded, fairly enough, that this species, at an epoch by no means very remote, inhabited England. Mr. Brown, in consequence, is inclined to think that his "specimen may, after all, be truly indigenous," suggesting that it "may be one of the last surviving, if not the last survivor, of the British Chelonians." We sincerely hope that some further traces of the species may be found in the valley of the Trent, to the exploration of which we are glad to hear Mr. Brown is especially devoting himself, so as to justify the suspicions we have just mentioned.

The ichthyology of the district presents nothing out of the common way, unless we mention the complete naturalization of the *Cyprinus auratus*, which is stated to thrive and breed abundantly "in waters at Derby connected with some of the manufactory steam-engines," the increased temperature of which, combined with the grease that escapes from the machinery, furnish the necessary requirements of food and warmth.

Very long lists of the lower animals and of the plants make up the chief bulk of the volume. In many orders of the former, and in almost all of the latter, they are merely nominal, with the addition of the localities (of which an index is meritoriously added) where the species occur. In other cases some judicious remarks are interspersed, showing Mr. Brown's powers of acute observation. These we must leave, only mentioning here the admirable paper in the Appendix, by that gentleman, on the genus *Acentropus*. The nine plates which illustrate the work are nicely executed, Mr. Wolf's bird and Mr. Ford's reptile being of course entitled to special attention. And, to return to the subject with which we commenced this article, we may mention that Sir Oswald gives (page 7) a satisfactory reason for the excellence of Burton ale.

*Homes without Hands; being an Account of the Habitations constructed by various Animals, classed according to their principles of Construction.* By the Rev. J. G. WOOD, M.A., F.L.S. London: Longman & Co. (In course of publication.)

Under the above-mentioned title that indefatigable compiler, the Rev. J. G. Wood, is issuing a work of which we are bound to say that the two Parts we have seen will not increase his credit as a naturalist. We do not like hazarding such an assertion without adducing something in support of our statement. What, then, are we to think of a man who speaks (part 2. p. 63) of a bird of the genus *Puffinus* as "allied" to the Puffin of English ornithology, the *Alca arctica* of Linnæus? While looking over Mr. Wood's lucubra-

\* On the Zoology of Ancient Europe. London & Cambridge, 1862 (Macmillan).

tions, we feel like Garrick in Sir Joshua's celebrated picture, and hardly know whether to make choice of the tragic or the comic muse in criticising them. It may therefore be as well to say no more on the subject.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

June 9, 1863.—John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF PARRAKEET FROM CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.  
By JOHN GOULD, F.R.S., ETC.

The Board of Governors of the South Australian Institute having liberally forwarded for my inspection a selection from the ornithological collection made by Mr. Frederick G. Waterhouse during Mr. Stuart's late Exploratory Expedition into Central Australia, I have thought the matter of sufficient interest to bring these birds under the notice of the Society, the more so as it will enable me to make known through our 'Proceedings' a new and very beautiful species of Parrakeet pertaining to the genus *Polyteles*, of which only two have been hitherto known. Every ornithologist must be acquainted with the elegant *P. melanurus* and *P. Barrabandi*, and I feel assured that the acquisition of an additional species of this lovely form will be hailed with pleasure. The specific appellation I would propose for this novelty is *Alexandræ*, in honour of that Princess who, we may reasonably hope, is destined at some future time to be the queen of these realms and their dependencies, of which Australia is by no means the most inconspicuous.

#### POLYTELES ALEXANDRÆ, sp. nov.

Forehead delicate light blue; lower part of the cheeks, chin, and throat rose-pink; head, nape, mantle, back, and scapularies olive-green; lower part of the back and rump blue, of a somewhat deeper tint than that of the crown; shoulders and wing-coverts pale yellowish green; spurious wing bluish green; external webs of the principal primaries dull blue, narrowly edged with greenish yellow, the remaining primaries olive-green, edged with greenish yellow; under wing-coverts verditer-green; breast and abdomen olive-grey, tinged with vinous; thighs rosy red; upper tail-coverts olive, tinged with blue; two centre tail-feathers bluish olive-green; the two next on each side olive-green on their outer webs and dark brown on the inner ones; the remaining tail-feathers tricoloured, the central portion being black, the outer olive-grey, and the inner deep rosy red; under tail-coverts olive; bill coral-red; feet mealy brown.

Total length 14 inches; bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; wing 7; tail 9; tarsi  $\frac{7}{8}$ .

*Habitat.* Howell's Ponds, Central Australia,  $16^{\circ} 54' 7''$  S. L.

*Remark.*—This is in every respect a typical *Polyteles*, having the delicate bill and elegantly striped tail characteristic of that form. It